

(D)

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(A)

I used to go to the Sports Park in the coast league + sell programs or soft drinks or something to get in. I went all the time. After school I'd jump on a bike + ride out there + try to get a job to get into the park to watch the game. I remember Fred Raymer, second baseman for the L A club, was the only man on that club that would talk to kids. And it taught me a lesson. So that

(B)

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NATION-WIDE REPORTING COVERAGE
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INTERVIEW
 with
 FRED SNODGRASS

original



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INTERVIEWER: How did you become a professional baseball player?

FRED SNODGRASS: Well, it's rather interesting. My mother and I, to make a long story out of it, moved from Los Angeles to Portland, Oregon at the time of the Portland Centennial Fair ^{up} out there, and we lived there for several months and it rained every day and we didn't like it. I had left high school in my senior year to go up there. We stayed two or three months and didn't like it because of the weather, so we decided to come back to Los Angeles.

~~And being~~ ^{that threw me} so far behind in my senior class I didn't think I could catch up ~~with them~~ so I went to St. Vincent's College. I'm not Catholic but I went to Catholic school there and played baseball on their team and finished my senior year there. It's a high school college combined.

INTERVIEWER: That was in 1905 or ~~something~~ ^{so.}

FRED SNODGRASS: That was in 1906.

INTERVIEWER: I asked because I think it's very unusual for a college man to be in baseball in those days, wasn't it?

FRED SNODGRASS: ^{Yes, that's right.} ~~Yah, that it was.~~ So I finished the year there and then I went to work in Los



Angeles for a big warehouse company, I was team director, I directed personnel and vehicles of all descriptions, vans and express wagons and trucks and everything else, *all over the city of* ~~always~~ in Los Angeles. That was my job.

One day the phone rang and the coach at college said, Fred, we're going to play the New York Giants in ~~an~~ ³ exhibition game^s, they're training out here, and could you get off and come out and catch for us? Well I turned to my boss and he was quite a baseball fan and he said, why sure, I'll take your job, so for two successive days I went out and caught for the college that I was not going to, against the giants, and the umpire was John J. McGraw, he umpired and he and I didn't see things alike and we fought through the ~~days~~ ^{3 games,} had a quarrel all through ~~the~~ ^{3 games} three ~~days~~, and that was that.

I went back to work again.

INTERVIEWER: Had you been playing Saturdays and Sundays.

FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, I had been playing on the best semi-pro team in Los Angelis, which was then called the "Hoagy ~~Five~~ ^{Flags}". We had this big sporting goods house and we had flags on our back, you know, of all nations, and we played teams all over Southern California, *an* particularly the one that was toughest, ~~there~~ was one

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down by Santa Ana for whom Walter Johnson pitched.

INTERVIEWER: No kidding.

FRED SNODGRASS: ^{Yes,} ~~Yah,~~ and that was always a battle when we had Walter Johnson to face down there. Well, any way I went back to work and the next spring John McGraw came out to Los Angeles to attend the races, I think, the ponies, he ~~used to~~ ^{ed} love to follow the ponies you know, and he didn't bring ^{his} ~~the~~ team, he was out here on his own.

Previous to the time he would leave to go down to Texas to the training camp he'd put on a uniform out at the ~~baseball club~~ ^{ball park}, which they used to call "~~Suits~~ ^{Shoots} Park" and get in shape himself so he would have the jump on these old timers that he had at that time.

Some of my friends, a lot of kids would go out there and shag for him and help him, you know, ^{play an} chase balls and one thing or another, and he asked a question about me, remembering me I guess because of the quarrel that we had had through these three games, and my friend said oh, he's the best catcher in semi-pro around here and McGraw said, well, if you see him tell him I want to talk to him.

So the word got to me and I talked it over



1
 2 with my father and mother who said well, there'd be no
 3 harm in talking to him, where is he staying. Well, I
 4 didn't have any idea, and I called up three or four hotels
 5 and finally I found him, and he said I would like to talk
 6 to you, ^{would you} meet me in the lobby at such and such a time and
 7 I said sure, so I did, and he said are you thinking about
 8 playing baseball, and I said, well, a little bit, ^{I said,} I had
 9 an offer from Peoria in the Three Eye League, and -- he
 10 said, here's a contract and he reached in his pocket,
 11 pulled out a contract and he said, take this home and
 12 talk to your father and mother and if they think you
 13 ought to try baseball, our train leaves in four days
 14 for ^{Marlin} ~~Smallen~~, Texas, ^{or} let me know will you.

15 Well, I was on the train four days later
 16 going to ^{Marlin} ~~Smallen~~, Texas. That's the way I got into base-
 17 ball, because in those days you see, Mr. Ritter, we did
 18 not have coaches and scouts and things of that kind.
 19 So the way they got young players was by observation
 20 themselves or some friend of the club tipping off John
 21 McGraw or other managers of the club ^s that ~~there~~ ^{here} was a
 22 likely kid and they would bring him up and look at him.

23 INTERVIEWER: What did your father and
 24 mother think about ^{this} it?

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, they were keen for it.



1
2 I had never been out of the State except to go to Portland,
3 Oregon, and they thought it would be a good education
4 for me to see the rest of the United States and this
5 was an opportunity to do it.

6 Of course, my contract only called for
7 a hundred and fifty dollars a month, but that's the
8 way it started. That was in 1908, you see, in the spring
9 of 1908, and the Giants had bought this piece of property
10 in this little town of ^{Marlin} Smallen, Texas, a town of about
11 four or five thousand people.

12 They thought that in a little town like
13 that they could keep the fellows under control better,
14 and they wouldn't wander away and do things they shouldn't,
15 so they bought ^a this piece of property and constructed
16 a ball park down there, and we trained there for eight
17 years.

18 INTERVIEWER: While we're on that, what was
19 training like in those days? How did it compare to
20 spring training today? More ^r vigorous or less or --

21 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, I would have to
22 answer that this way. Today you have professional
23 teachers in every category don't you? In those days
24 we didn't, we didn't have anybody, we didn't have even
25 ~~these movie~~ ^{moving} pictures taken of you and showing you how

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you ^{might} ~~can~~ improve your ^{stance or your} swing or something like that, none of those things.

We didn't have --

INTERVIEWER: You didn't have ten coaches either did you?

FRED SNODGRASS: No, we had one old timer "Arley Latham", just an old time ball player who was probably the worst third base coach that ever lived, you know, they didn't make a speciality of those things in those days, so it was up to the individual to get himself into condition.

Of course McGraw would insist that we ran so many times around the park, and we have batting practice, of course, naturally, but a youngster trying to get up to the plate in batting practice was just impossible.

When I joined the club, for instance, we had an old man team of mostly Irish -- we had McGann, and we had -- well, I'd have to get a book to get all those old names that kind of slipped -- we had Devlin and in the outfield we had Sy Seymour and Mike Shannon, Mike Donlin, and they were all just about ready to step out because they were getting old in baseball and they were tough. *They were tough old Irish.*

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1
2 Jack ^{Harrison} Harrison was another one, Arthur
3 Devlin, Sammy Stein.

4 INTERVIEWER: How did they treat you
5 as a youngster?

6 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, I roomed with Shannon
7 and I really, ^{owe} ~~oh~~ I think my job in baseball I owe to
8 Shannon because he took me under his wing and helped
9 me ^{encouraged} ~~and trained~~ me, he told me what to do, ^{and} what not to
10 do, --

11 INTERVIEWER: Even though you were perhaps
12 going to take ^{his} the job ^{or} ~~as~~ a job of a friend of his?

13 FRED SNODGRASS: That's right.

14 INTERVIEWER: This surprises me.

15 FRED SNODGRASS: That's right, but on the
16 other hand to get up to the batting practice plate and
17 try to get some hits, some batting practice, was almost
18 impossible because you were an outsider as a youngster,
19 you ^{see} ~~know~~, but I think, ^{to} ~~in~~ answer ~~to~~ your question, it
20 was up to the individual to get himself in shape.

21 If he was intelligent and if he was a man
22 that wanted to make that team and become a first class
23 baseball player, he himself had to have it in his heart
24 to do it, he wasn't made to do things. ^{Am I making} ~~Do I make~~ myself
25 clear?

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2 INTERVIEWER: Very clear.

3 FRED SNODGRASS: But today it's entirely
4 different. You have a pitching coach, you have all
5 these other coaches that are teaching you things, and
6 I don't know that it's good to try to take a young
7 fellow, for instance, like Frank Howard and change his
8 stance and his swing and everything else, I don't
9 believe it helps ^{them} to do that.

10 I think you have a natural ability ⁱⁿ for
11 baseball and it shouldn't be changed, that's my opinion,
12 but I don't know. It was a peculiar stance that Stan
13 Musial had you know, but what a great ball player he
14 was, ^{what} a great hitter, but some, if some coach had tried
15 to change him it might have ruined him.

16 But there's been so many changes in the
17 game. I swear -- you take in my day, for instance the
18 pitching. We had spit ball pitching, and that was soon
19 followed by the discovery of the emory ball, and we
20 had that very unorthodox pitch, it was a terrifically
21 difficult pitch to hit, you never knew where the thing
22 was going, and of course, one of the boys got killed
23 and then they outlawed the thing, but a spit ball, there
24 was nothing dangerous about a spitball and I think it
25 should be back in today because it was difficult to hit

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2 and many times a difficult ball to field. The fielders
3 used to be out there, I mean the infielders, with a glove
4 full of tobacco juice and dirt so that if they got a
5 spitball hit at them they could give it a rub and not
6 throw it over the first baseman's head.

7 INTERVIEWER: Really?

8 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes. So you had a
9 good offense from the pitcher's standpoint but a bad
10 defense from infielders.

11 INTERVIEWER: And then with that ball
12 rubbed up it wouldn't be thrown out of the game would
13 it?

14 FRED SNODGRASS: Never, we kept a ball
15 in the game, an umpire would throw out a new ball, it
16 went into the stands and the ticket men couldn't get
17 it away from the spectators to throw back in, ^{or only} then the
18 umpire would throw out a new ball, the pitcher would
19 sidestep it, it would go around the infield once or
20 twice and come back to him about like the Ace of Spades
21 in color, because everybody in the ⁱⁿ field, ~~infield~~, had
22 tobacco juice and dirt, and we didn't use rosen in those
23 days you see, so the tobacco juice and the dirt gave
24 you the same sticky ball ^{not} as the rosen gives you today.

25 That dark ball, believe me, was hard to

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2 see coming out of the shadows of the big stand, and today
3 you're not allowed to deface the ball at all. ^{It's always white} You can
4 pick it out of the shadows much easier than you could
5 in the old days, when the things became almost dark brown
6 or black and we'd keep that ball in play just as long
7 as we could.

8 INTERVIEWER: There was then nothing against
9 the pitcher darkening the ball as much as he could?

10 FRED SNODGRASS: No. No, sir, not at all.
11 Today you're not allowed to do a thing like that. Then,
12 of course, we had the old dead ball.

13 INTERVIEWER: Must have been hard to catch
14 that.

15 FRED SNODGRASS: What?

16 INTERVIEWER: The spitball, the emory ball
17 and the dark ball.

18 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes. Yet the catchers
19 used the same gloves for spitball pitchers or emory
20 ball pitchers and we had knuckle ball pitchers in those
21 days too, but nowadays they have a great big pillow,
22 so they tell me, I haven't seen one.

23 INTERVIEWER: One and a half times the
24 size of the regular ^{glove} ~~old one~~.

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Yah, and we didn't have

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1
2 that, but I think, Mr. Ritter, one of the greatest
3 changes in the game ^w in what you have to catch a ball
4 with, the glove.

5 INTERVIEWER: Tell me about that.

6 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, we had little gloves,
7 regular ^{fed}, by rules it couldn't be over so many inches
8 across or in length and there was no webbing, no pocket,
9 no nothing, we used to cut a hole in the center of the
10 glove and catch the ball bare handed in that hole.

11 INTERVIEWER: I've seen pictures of the
12 hole in the glove.

13 FRED SNODGRASS: O, yes, we used to try, well
14 they had a little padding in there and no pocket, but
15 today, you know today that most of the players prefer
16 to catch the ball one handed rather than two, and in
17 our day if you tried to catch the ball one handed, when
18 it was an easy two handed catch, why you were ostracized,
19 because that wasn't right.

20 But today the equipment that you have is
21 so much better than the equipment that the old timers
22 had. It was much more difficult to catch a ball in
23 those days and I'm not saying that because I dropped a
24 ball in ^a ~~the~~ world series, it's just a fact, that you
25 didn't have the equipment in those days that you have

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1
2 today. Why a first baseman's glove today, it's like a
3 Lacross Racket, almost.

4 INTERVIEWER: What catching equipment
5 did you wear in 1908?

6 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, we had shin guards.
7 *Bresnahan*
"Bresenham", after I joined the Giants, *Bresnahan*
8 out with the first pair of shin guards that was ever
9 used.

10 INTERVIEWER: You were there when he put
11 them on the first time?

12 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, right.

13 INTERVIEWER: What kind of a reception
14 did he get, wearing these?

15 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, everybody was amazed
16 *to see* ~~at~~ these things, you know, *just* amazed, *and* wondered how he could
17 run in them and one thing *and* ~~or~~ another but it wasn't very
18 long before everybody had them, everybody, I mean all
19 the catchers, and then we used to have --

20 INTERVIEWER: Did they impune his masculinity
21 for wearing these things?

22 FRED SNODGRASS: No, I don't think so.

23 INTERVIEWER: In those days real -- I don't
24 know quite how to say it, physical endurance was a very
25

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1
2 great ^R ~~virtue~~.

3 FRED SNODGRASS: I agree with that one
4 hundred percent because it used to be a disgrace if
5 a pitcher didn't go nine innings. He felt bad about
6 it. But today this platooning that they do, with five,
7 six pitchers in there per game is entirely different.
8 A man goes out there and pitches his head off for four
9 or five innings and he thinks he's through and he is
10 in most cases, you know, ~~so~~ they ^{put} ~~stick~~ somebody else
11 in there.

12 But in our day a man was expected to go
13 nine innings, or more.

14 INTERVIEWER: I hear stories of physical
15 injuries that were brushed off casually whereas today
16 a three week layoff would be the accepted thing.

17 FRED SNODGRASS: You pick up the paper
18 today and so and so, his arm stiffened during the pitching,
19 he can -- he's got a kink in his neck, a sore elbow,
20 men were men in my day. They're not men anymore, they're
21 mollycoddle~~s~~s, or something like that. I don't know,
22 there is a difference, as you say, there's a difference
23 in the, shall we say, guts of a guy.

24 INTERVIEWER: I think ^{Marguard} "Rube Marker" said
25 "creampuffs."

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2 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, there you are.

3 It was quite a record he had, you know, he pitched
4 nineteen straight wins and every one was a full game
5 I think, I don't think any one of them was less than a
6 full game. He pitched ^{that} a twenty-one inning game against
7 Pittsburgh, and then a week later or the week before
8 he pitched a twenty-six inning game.

9 Men like ^{Mathewson, the} Mathis, ~~a~~ great pitcher he was,
10 you know, we would never relieve Mathis, ^{ewson} he always
11 pitched a full game. Greatest pitcher that ever lived
12 in my opinion. Another thing that bothers me between
13 the old time games and the game today, ^s the lack of
14 trying to get hits, when you're a batter.

15 Today it's a lost ^{art} cause, nobody ever
16 gets ~~a~~ hit unless some pitcher delivers it behind him
17 or at him, but to get up there and attempt to get hit,
18 it's not done anymore. They're all trying to hit the
19 ball over the fence as you know.

20 For instance, I used to lead the league
21 in that. ^{In getting hit by a pitched ball.} I had baggy uniforms, I had a baggy shirt, ^{pulled out}
22 I had baggy pants, and anything close inside why you
23 turned with it and half the time you weren't really hit,
24 ^{it was} ~~but~~ just the ⁿknicking of your clothes ^{That got you on} ~~bought your base~~
25 because we were always playing for one run, not a flock



1
2 of runs like today.

3 Another change in the game is this delay
4 in the pitching. The pitcher today has to pause and
5 wait and they call all these balks on him. Why in my
6 day you didn't dare step in the box without being
7 ready because somebody had a fast delivery and the
8 ball was on top of you before you even looked up.

9 That was part of the game in those days.
10 You had to keep your head up because the minute you
11 stepped in ^{that box} there, if you were looking at your feet or
12 someplace, like they do today, to get these positions
13 and all, well, ^{The ball was by you, you see.} too bad.

14 I remember one particular fellow in
15 the Boston Braves, Pat Flaherty, Joe McGinty was another
16 one, with the Giants, oh, quick return artists you know,
17 the catcher would throw them the ball and bang, right
18 back you know.

19 Then, of course, the bats were different.
20 Today they have ^{a bat that} those bats, they all hold them down
21 on the end and they have a whip in them just like ^{a pole vaulter's pole today} --

22 INTERVIEWER: How heavy a bat did you use?

23 FRED SNODGRASS: Gosh, I never, I never
24 remember what the ounces were in my bat, but I know
25 Chief Meyers, we were talking up at this old timers



1
2 game in San Francisco, what did he say, he used a forty-
3 three ounce or something like that.

4 INTERVIEWER: Sounds likely.

5 FRED SNODGRASS: A terrifically heavy bat.

6 INTERVIEWER: And you choked the bat?

7 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, we all choked it
8 a little bit. Very few in my day held the bat down at
9 the end. I can only remember one, Frank Schulty^e with
10 the Cubs, in the famous days of Tinker to Chance to
11 Evers, you know. Schulty^e held the bat down at the end,
12 but most all the players ^{were choke hitters} would ~~choke it~~, you couldn't
13 hit balls over the fence in those days in most parks
14 because the ball was too dead.

15 They hadn't livened it like today. I do
16 think one of the things that's been highly improved in
17 the game today is the double play ball. Of course, the
18 fielder gets it a lot quicker because it's faster, you
19 see, and in our days of the dead ball you didn't get
20 it quick enough to make those double plays, but I think
21 they make three or four or five times the number of ~~those~~
22 double plays than we used to.

23 INTERVIEWER: More efficient than Tinkers
24 to Evers to Chance?

25 FRED SNODGRASS: I don't think their pivot

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1
2 is any better today than then but the fact is they
3 get the the ball quicker because of the rabbit ball,
4 and that's the only reason, in my opinion, that they
5 make so many more today than they did then.

6 I think men in our day were just as agile
7 and just as good as any at pivoting on the bag there
8 as they are today.

9 INTERVIEWER: No reason they shouldn't be.

10 FRED SNODGRASS: No. A funny change in
11 baseball too, everybody is amazed to see Willie Mays
12 catch a ball as a basket catch. In my days you were
13 a bush leaguer if you didn't catch a ball that way.

14 INTERVIEWER: Oh, ^{really} yes.

15 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, and the reason ^{was} why,
16 if you stop and figure the logic of it, if you're an
17 outfielder for instance, and the ball is hit, coming
18 out of the shadows and all, it's ^{rather} pretty difficult for
19 an instant or two to know whether the ball is going to
20 go over your head or whether you've got to come in, you've
21 got to make a quick decision ^{on} of it.

22 If you are in the habit of playing the
23 ball this way, and you have misjudged the thing, you
24 only have this much to go, where if you're in the habit
25 of catching the ball here, you have from here to here, ^{to} as

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1
2 far as you can reach to overcome the misjudgment of that
3 line drive.

4 INTERVIEWER: Most infielders were basket
5 catchers then?

6 FRED SNODGRASS: All of them, all of them.
7 I don't think there was a half a dozen guys in the
8 league that made a practice of doing that, I'm sure
9 there weren't, but ^{if you were fooled} you still had room to ~~mis~~correct your
10 misjudgment. Today the only guy that does it is Willie
11 Mays.

12 You remember, "^{Marranville} Rabbit ~~Mirando~~", the famous
13 catch that he always had, did you ever see him?

14 INTERVIEWER: No, I didn't.

15 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, he caught every
16 ball right here, whether it was going over his shoulder
17 or any place else, it was right there. And everybody
18 marveled at it because they wondered how that man had
19 time to catch it right there. No matter how high,
20 which way he was running, backwards or over the shoulder,
21 it was always right there. *Basket catch*

22 He was famous for that.

23 INTERVIEWER: How, did you get converted --
24 you did, how did you get converted from ^a catcher to an
25 outfielder?

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1
2 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, maybe I wasn't a
3 good enough catcher, I don't know, but I was fairly fast,
4 and --

5 INTERVIEWER: Catchers are not generally
6 so fast are they?

7 FRED SNODGRASS: No, and I was a catcher
8 in 1908 and sat on the bench allthrough the year. We
9 should have won the pennant that year and didn't. In
10 1909 I was ^athe catcher until the last month of the season, *and*
11 McGraw put me out in left field in the Polo Grounds,
12 played the centerfield out there for the last thirty
13 games.

14 In 1910 I was a catcher again in Spring
15 training.

16 INTERVIEWER: Oh, you were?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes.

18 INTERVIEWER: Because you played mostly
19 in the outfield.

20 FRED SNODGRASS: Yeh, but they put me
21 back in 1910, started spring training again as a
22 catcher, and ^{on}in the first road trip, McGraw came to
23 me and -- in the hotel in Cincinatti, he was sitting
24 there and he said, "Sno", he said, how would you like
25 to play the outfield? Well, I had been very unhappy



1 sitting ~~there~~ on the bench and I immediately thought
 2 he was going to send me out to some minor league
 3 club and I said, what club, ^{why} and he said, this club.
 4 I said you mean you're going to take ^{Cy Seymour} "~~Steisgaber~~" out
 5 of centerfield, and he said, yes.
 6

7 He said, would you like to try it and I
 8 said, ^{why} of course, I would, so he said, okay, you're the
 9 centerfielder tomorrow and from then on I was the center-
 10 fielder. I never went back to catching. I was a sub-
 11 stitute first baseman for Merkel, ^{always} whenever Merkel was
 12 out of the game I became ^{the} first baseman.

13 I liked to play there. I didn't particu-
 14 larly like the outfield because ^{having} I had been a catcher
 15 all of my school days and semi-pro days and you're in
 16 the thick of the battle and when you're out in the out-
 17 field, you may be out there all day without a chance, ^{or}
 18 maybe just backing ^{up} some play or something.

19 I was the kind of a ballplayer that liked
 20 to be in the middle of things and fight a little bit.

21 INTERVIEWER: What was McGraw like?

22 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, he was a great man,
 23 really a wonderful fellow.

24 INTERVIEWER: You got along with him?

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes and no. I was head-

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2 strong, ^a hot headed kid you know, and we didn't always
3 see alike. He'd bawl the dickens out of me as he did
4 everybody else, for a mental mistake, but not a mechanical
5 mistake.

6 McGraw never got on ^{you} ~~your back~~ for a mechani-
7 cal error. But any mental error, he was all over you
8 and he had the most vicious tongue of any man that
9 ever lived, ^{I think absolutely,} But as I say it was only when you had it
10 coming to you that you got it.

11 Now, signals, no. Men in our time were
12 supposed to know how to play baseball and do the right
13 thing at the right time. Today they don't dare use their
14 own judgment, they are told what to do on every darn
15 pitch.

16 INTERVIEWER: Pardon me.

17 (Telephone call)

18 FRED SNODGRASS: Okay.

19 INTERVIEWER: I thought that McGraw gave
20 a lot of signals, I thought, for example, that every
21 pitch was a McGraw call.

22 FRED SNODGRASS: No, no.

23 INTERVIEWER: And that McGraw told when to
24 hit and when not to hit, ^{with} a whole slew of ^{signals,} things.

25 FRED SNODGRASS: No, sir, that is entirely

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1
2 *erroneous.* wrong. That's the dream of some writer that is all
3 wrong because it isn't so. ^{Ritter} McGraw allowed initiative
4 to his men.] For instance, today batters are allowed by
5 permission, ^{given} ~~you remember~~, before the pitch, to hit two
6 and nothing, three and one, three and nothing. We weren't.
7 Very, very seldom.

8 If you were ^{at the plate} ~~to play~~, working for McGraw
9 in my day and you had two and nothing, you might ^{glance over} look
10 at the bench for permission to hit two and nothing. You
11 seldom got it. If you did it was a nod of the head.
12 There were no fancy signals going through all this stuff
13 you know, a nod of the head or a shake of the head, but
14 because we had to play for small scores, one run, two
15 runs, you were seldom allowed to hit two and nothing
16 or three ^{and} one.

17 I would like to be playing today and be
18 able to do that. I think that averages in my day would
19 be much higher if we could hit two and nothing ^{or} and three
20 and one.

21 INTERVIEWER: But the averages in your
22 day were much higher weren't they?

23 FRED SNODGRASS: I think so, there were
24 more three hundred hitters in ^{our} ~~my~~ day than there are today.

25 INTERVIEWER: I don't understand that.

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2 FRED SNODGRASS: There were many more, the
3 difference is so marked. But signals, no. We were a
4 base running club. In 1910, '11, '12 we had seven men
5 that averaged forty-five bases ^{stealing} -- forty-five apiece
6 would be the average. How many do we have today -- we
7 had one wonderful, "Wills" last year, stole over a
8 hundred, which is unbelievable. I don't know how he
9 did it, but he did it, but other than that, look around
10 today and see how many bases are stolen.

11 We had seven men that would steal forty
12 or more, and we were a base running club. Now, we
13 ran on our own.

14 INTERVIEWER: Did you really?

15 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, sir.

16 INTERVIEWER: Wow.

17 FRED SNODGRASS: We were told once in
18 a while to run and the way he did it, Mac, sitting on
19 the bench would - s-t-e-a-l, everybody in the park could
20 see it. We had "Dummy Taylor", you know, ^{a mute} ~~he was~~ on the
21 club and all of us knew the sign language, and Mac would
22 look over there and s-t-e-a-l, anybody could see it.

23 INTERVIEWER: You all knew the sign
24 language.

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, sure, I knew it.

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2 But, we had no complicated signs, a shake of the head, or
3 a nod of the head, or something in sign language which --
4 the only one we had was steal, and he might just as well
5 have said, go on, like that, and you'd go.

6 INTERVIEWER: Which is why I think McGraw
7 *needed*
used intelligent players.

8 FRED SNODGRASS: I think that's the answer,
9 I think that's the answer. We were on our own, we stole
10 when we thought we had to ^{*The jump*} go, and when the situation, the
11 stage of the game demanded it, and not when it didn't,
12 of course, if we were way behind why that's no good,
13 but I think the player in my day was allowed to think
14 for himself instead of today having somebody to think
15 for him.

16 INTERVIEWER: To the extent that there is
17 any thinking in baseball today. This is a question of
18 how much thinking there is in baseball ^{*today*} with homeruns ^{*dominant*}
19 and so on.

20 FRED SNODGRASS: Yeh, it's different, it's
21 entirely different.

22 INTERVIEWER: You mentioned Christy
23 Mathewson, what kind of a man was he?

24 FRED SNODGRASS: Christy Mathewson was a
25 wonderful, wonderful man. Did you know that he, I'm not



1
2 saying that he was a very religious man but did you know
3 that he never dressed ^{in uniform} and never pitched on Sunday?

4 INTERVIEWER: No. I didn't know that.

5 FRED SNODGRASS: That's a fact. Never put
6 a uniform on, never pitched a ball game on Sunday.

7 INTERVIEWER: Never put the uniform on?

8 FRED SNODGRASS: No, no, and of course, in
9 those days, we didn't play Sunday ball in the far east,
10 like New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Pittsburgh, but
11 in St. Louis, Cincinnati, ^{*}Chicago, we played Sunday
12 baseball. But Matty never did. I'm not saying that
13 he was a very religious man but he got started that way,
14 I guess because of some belief he had, and whether it
15 was in his contract or not I don't know, but that was
16 a fact.

17 He did everything well, outside of baseball.

18 He was a checker champion in a half a dozen states. He
19 played twelve boards at a time in checkers. He was
20 a good three cushion billiard player, he was a pretty
21 ^{fair} fine golfer, he was a wonderful poker player and he
22 made his expenses every year playing poker, ^{Because} with ^{all} the
23 newcomers coming up, they were delighted to be able to
24 sit down at a table where Matty was you know, and they
25 would say I played poker today with the great Christy

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1
2 Mathewson, but Christy was a good poker player and he
3 made a lot of money at it.

4 He was a good bridge player, ^{Koo} I played
5 bridge with him many times, he and McGraw and the
6 president of the club, the owner, Mr. Brush, once in
7 a while the four of us would play bridge. Merkel was
8 also a pretty good bridge player.

9 But he did everything well, he was a fine
10 man, hard to know, hard to get close to, but a great
11 friend and a man who I think invested his money wisely
12 and came out of baseball with good money, ^{of course} but he died
13 in baseball as you know. He got gassed in the war
14 and it caught up with him afterwards, but his son lived
15 in this county for a while and he was a customer of
16 mine.

17 You know Christy, Jr. got married in
18 China. I don't know whether you knew that or not, and
19 on his wedding trip he borrowed an airplane from ^a Ching
20 Kai Chek to fly up to ^{Pekin} his ~~kin~~ from where it was he was
21 married and he crashed on the takeoff. His bride was
22 killed and he lost a leg.

23 Well, he later bought a place up here
24 at Hidden Valley and he was a customer of mine in my
25 business, in my store, and his mother came out ^{to visit him} a couple
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times and I saw her when she was out. Mrs. McGraw and Mrs. Mathewson were great friends, you know, very, very close, both of them wonderful people.

* * * *

I look back with a lot of pleasure to baseball. It was quite an education, I made a little money out of baseball and bought a ranch, almost when I first went into baseball and it kept me broke all the years I played baseball paying for that ranch.

INTERVIEWER: What did most of the fellows do then? I ~~imagine in an~~ ^{added in the} off season you came back to the ranch.

FRED SNODGRASS: I came back to Southern California yes, and usually in the fall we'd take a barnstorming trip with some group and end up back home here, and I didn't actually farm during those years, except as a white collared farmer, we had a man on the ranch --

INTERVIEWER: Was that this ranch?

FRED SNODGRASS: No, no, this was over near Oxnard. I had a partner over there and we owned it together, bought it in 1910 and sold it in the 40's someplace, but in the meantime we had bought this property over here and added to it and started with twenty acres here and ended up with buying eighteen more



1
2 in front and then seventy-one behind us. I was twenty-
3 five years in the appliance business in Oxnard.

4 INTERVIEWER: You -- before I even get to
5 that, you were traded to Boston.

6 FRED SNODGRASS: I was released.

7 INTERVIEWER: In 191⁵.

8 FRED SNODGRASS: I was released, *outright.*

9 INTERVIEWER: How did you feel when this
10 took place?

11 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, I was having a bad
12 year and I saw it coming, I don't think it was too much
13 of a shock, too much of a surprise, and yet it hurt,
14 there's no question about that, but --

15 INTERVIEWER: How did you find out about
16 it?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: How did I find out about
18 it? I think McGraw told me, I think he told me, as I
19 remember it. I remember Sam Crane who was a great writer
20 in those days, a writer that never had anything good
21 to say about you any time and he was always, Sam was the
22 kind that pulled you down and found fault with you, and
23 he had been on me for two or three years, but when I
24 got my release he gave me the finest write up that any-
25 body could ever have.



1
2 I had an unconditional release and I
3 had offers from, I think, four or five clubs, and I
4 chose ^{the} one that offered the most money, which happened
5 to be the Braves ⁱⁿ Boston. George T. Stallings was the
6 manager. They gave me more money than I got in New
7 York. I could have gone to Philadelphia, to Pittsburgh,
8 to Chicago, and so I joined the Braves and finished out
9 the year with them.

10 We were in Braves field and that was when
11 Braves field fences were way back, you know, and anything
12 hit between you was a home run, and you couldn't hit
13 the ball over the fence ^{with} in two tries, and I had ^{Sherry} Shirley
14 McGee on one side of me and ^{Joe Wilhitz} "Joe Relite" on the other
15 and they were both slow as the dickens and I had to
16 cover an awful lot of ground ^{there}.

17 I had a good fielding year and by gosh,
18 the next spring, winter when the contracts came, they
19 had a wave of economy on the Boston Braves and they cut
20 my contract right in the middle.

21 INTERVIEWER: Wow.

22 FRED SNODGRASS: Exactly, ^{in the middle} Well, that
23 started a series of letters back and forth and I think
24 that I'm one of the few successful holdouts, I never
25 got any more money and I never played any more.

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1 INTERVIEWER: Oh, you just, that was it huh?

2 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes.

3 INTERVIEWER: I'll be --

4 FRED SNODGRASS: I was living in Los
5 Angeles and selling automobiles and doing very well at
6 it and Tom Grammerty, who ^{owned} had the "Vernon" Club in the
7 Pacific Coast League would come down to the automobile
8 agency there, oh two or three times a week, and he'd
9 say, well have you got your release yet. They were
10 dead last in the Pacific Coast League, had nobody, no
11 money to buy players to improve their club and he was
12 looking for somebody to help him that wouldn't cost
13 him anything see, so he'd come in there two or three
14 times a week.

15 No, no, still corresponding, and finally
16 I got a letter after about two months, that their out-
17 field had finally shaped up to the point where they
18 thought they could get along without me and they were
19 giving me my release, because I had kept demanding it,
20 I went there as a free agent and they had no right to
21 hold me if they didn't want me or didn't want to pay the
22 money.

23 So, that was on Thursday and Tom was in
24 there that day, talked me into playing in the Pacific
25

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1
2 Coast League, I hadn't played any winter baseball, I
3 hadn't touched a baseball, I joined the Vernon Club
4 on Friday and on Saturday he put me in to play shortstop,
5 of all positions.

6 INTERVIEWER: Shortstop.

7 (Laughter)

8 You were a fast man, I'm surprised he --

9 FRED SNODGRASS: The first ball ^{that} was hit
10 to me, it was one of those that was hit by the third
11 baseman, ^{where} when the shortstop goes over and has that long
12 throw and ^{my arm} I went right with the ball.

13 I played every position on that Vernon
14 team for the balance of that year, except pitch, every
15 single one of them, here and there, and there, they
16 didn't have any players and ^{they had injuries} I played more second base
17 than anything else, because my arm was so bad, it was
18 about as far as I could throw, from second base to
19 first.

20 After that year I quit, I played about
21 a half a year in the Coast League.

22 INTERVIEWER: Then you went back to the
23 automobile agency?

24 FRED SNODGRASS: No, I went back to farming.

25 INTERVIEWER: You had a farm -- I mean

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2 you seem to have had a lot of things ready to step into,
3 was that true for most of you^{re} fellows?

4 FRED SNODGRASS: No, I don't think so.

5 INTERVIEWER: What did they do?

6 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, I've seen crap
7 games at the end of the world series and most of the
8 participants go home broke. That I never did. I was
9 not a gambler, I didn't play poker. I liked to play
10 bridge, something like that, but to get into a crap
11 game or a poker game, I never could see it.

12 INTERVIEWER: Did McGraw permit this on
13 the team?

14 FRED SNODGRASS: ^{yes} Poker was limited to
15 a certain amount but they'd kick it ^{2 or 3 times} ~~to a certain amount~~
16 and you could lose quite a little money playing.

17 INTERVIEWER: ^{this} It wasn't injurious to the
18 ball club?

19 FRED SNODGRASS: No, I don't think so.
20 I don't think so, because McGraw would police it to
21 the extent that nobody got hurt too badly, but a crap
22 game after the world series, ^{he} money is distributed, ~~and~~
23 this was something he had no control over.

24 INTERVIEWER: The season was over.

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Yeh, the season was over.



1
 2 If they wanted to throw their world serie's money away,
 3 of course we had ^{three} the losing shares, but I ~~don't~~ know,
 4 the ^{back of the} ~~Boston~~ players would go home broke, but very few
 5 of them -- Matty I think bought stocks and did very
 6 well by it, maybe one or two others in my day did, but
 7 the rest of them would take the money that they might
 8 have saved during the year and go hunting and fishing
 9 and probably spend it.

10 I don't think that many of the players of
 11 my day came out of baseball with anything, it was just
 12 too bad.

13 INTERVIEWER: What did they do when they
 14 got to be the very young age of thirty-five or so?

15 FRED SNODGRASS: I had in mind, for instance
 16 the pitcher we had on our club -- I called over to
 17 Los Angeles a couple of years ago, down and out, he
 18 was living in the Gates Hotel and his bills were being
 19 paid by the Baseball Players National Group you know,
 20 and there were too many of those.

21 If you've ever seen the little booklet
 22 they put out every year, about the cases that they
 23 take care, former players that are ill and in hospitals
 24 or rest homes and other places, even at home, that they
 25 foot the bills and give them money to live on, they do



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is over,

the game and that was the famous Merkel bonehead, and I never blamed Merkel because we lost five games after that!

Anyone of them would have made the difference in winning the pennant.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, sure.

FRED SNODGRASS: And then in that famous play off game, this is rather interesting, we talked it over in the clubhouse before the game, how in the world we could get Frank Chance out of this game, because Frank Chance always hit Matty pretty well, and we felt if we could get him out some way that we had a better chance of winning that playoff and the pennant.

So it was cooked up that McGinty was to pick a fight with Frank Chance before -- just as the game started, meet him on the foul line, and he did, and he stepped on his shoes and he actually spit on him, and Frank would not fight, he was just too smart, he wouldn't fight. *The y were to have a knock-down drag out fight.* Chance and McGinty. Of course, *we* ~~they~~ didn't need McGinty, but they needed Chance, and Chance was too smart, he wouldn't fight, so that was --

INTERVIEWER: Speaking of incidents on the field I read somewhere about a famous incident involving

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1
2 a wonderful job.

3 We didn't have a pension then you know,
4 in those days that they have today and the ball player to-
5 day, he's in a pretty good business because he's going
6 to be taken care of. In my day the players that failed
7 to save their money ^{invest it wisely or who didn't} or really work to increase their
8 capital they fell by the wayside. *And here the Association*
9 *takes care of them.* (Music of some sort overriding voices.)

10 Thank God they are, they've done a wonderful
11 job. A wonderful job.

12 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the first
13 game you played in the big league?

14 FRED SNODGRASS: No, no I don't. I know
15 I hit three hundred that thirty games, the first year
16 I played. Ended up with an even three hundred.

17 INTERVIEWER: Had you always wanted to
18 be a ball player?

19 FRED SNODGRASS: I think so, but to tell you
20 the truth I couldn't name the clubs in the two big
21 leagues when I was ^{interviewed by M. Graw.} ~~introduced to play ball~~. I couldn't
22 name the clubs.

23 (A) (Music overriding voices.)

24 -- because all through my career, if a kid
25 wanted to talk to me I always talked to him, but Fred

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1
2 Raymer on the Los Angeles Club was the only man on that
3 club that would talk to a boy, and I never forgot^{it}.

4 (Music again overriding.)

*Te crowds etc
nothing much*

5 -- we were a contender for the pennant and
6 you know how the gates would open and the people would
7 come on the field and we'd be sitting on the bench or
8 in our position and if you were on the Giants bench when
9 the game was over you ran like the dickens down to
10 the right field corner to get into the clubhouse before
11 the people could come out to pat you on the back see.

12 That's all they wanted to do was come out
13 and touch you, or something like that, or congratulate
14 you or something, but that was the reason that Fred
15 Merkel got into that awful jam.

16 INTERVIEWER: Were you there then?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, and that's
18 exactly the way it happened. Fred Merkel was a sub-
19 stitute, Fred^e Tinney was the first baseman and he and
20 the rest of us --

21 (B) (Music again overriding speaker)

22 -- and ducked in under the stands where
23 they dressed and so they didn't see the things that
24 happened, that McGinty intercepted the ball and threw
25 it up in the left field bleachers, but here's thousands

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of people milling around the infield and Frank ^{Chance} Schaeffer ~~was~~ ^{goes} in the dressing room and the umpires ^{with} ~~dragged~~ ^{x drags} them both out there and ^{says look at this} ~~didn't let them finish~~ --

(Music overriding speaker's voice.) ^{nothing}

-- and we lost the double header to Cincinatti. ^{It was the 1st game}

INTERVIEWER: That was Rube's first game, and he got hit pretty hard the first ^{inning} game.

FRED SNODGRASS: Yah, and then we went to Philadelphia where we had seven games in five days. We had to win four out of seven to win the pennant if we then beat the Braves four games, and if the Cubs won all of theirs.

That was the time that ^{Coveleski} Garilla pitched Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and beat us three games. We had to win five out of seven, I'm sorry, five out of seven and he beat us three games, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Then we had to go to Boston and win four games over there to tie the Cubs, ^{x have} ~~we had~~ that famous ^{which all happened.} playoff game, ^{Merkle} So "Russell" was sucked in going to the clubhouse because he'd been in the habit of doing that every day because of the way the crowd came down -- you brought the subject up ^{by asking} what does the crowd do after

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1
2 you and Mayor Curley, but it wasn't very clear exactly
3 what it was all about.

4 FRED SNODGRASS: Do you want to hear it?

5 INTERVIEWER: Yes.

6 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, this is quite an
7 incident that we had.

8 INTERVIEWER: I can see you're still
9 amused by thinking about it.

10 FRED SNODGRASS: Yah. (Laughter) Well,
11 this was in 1914 when the Braves at the 4th of July
12 were in last place and they made this wonderful climb
13 up the ladder until at Labor Day, a double header, they
14 had a chance to pass the Giants for the first time.
15 The Giants had been leading all along the line.

16 We played then a morning game and an
17 afternoon game, and they won the morning game and
18 practically tied us and then came the afternoon game.
19 Well, the Braves field had not been built then and
20 we were playing in a little band box in the national
21 league which wouldn't hold enough people, so they
22 borrowed Fenway Park for this double header and so we
23 were playing on the American League team field.

24 Well, (Laughter) we had a big inning about
25 the -- George ^{Tyler} Towers was pitching for Boston, Christy

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1
2 Mathewson was pitching for the Giants and along in the
3 ~~sixty~~th or seventh inning we had a big inning and scored
4 four runs and I came up to bat without anybody on bases
5 with the score four to nothing in favor of the Giants,
6 and of course, they couldn't pass the Giants that day
7 because they were going to be beaten.

8 Tyler took four shots at me, I was in the
9 dirt four times. The fourth one hit the button on my
10 cap and on my way to first base I went through the
11 pitching box.

12 (Laughter)

13 And I stood out in front of that guy and
14 I called him everything I could think of, every adjective
15 in the book, and he never said a word back to me and
16 finally when I ran out of adjectives, I went on over to
17 first base.

18 There were two out at the time. Well, the
19 crowd, the tremendous crowd in that field, we had a
20 two base rule because they were standing all around,
21 right behind my back in centerfield you know, and so
22 I got to first base finally and Tyler took the ball
23 and tossed it up in the air and dropped it, a pantomime
24 of the fact that I had two years before dropped this
25 fly ball in the World Series.

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1
2 Well, the crowd just started to hoot and
3 boo and hiss me who was an innocent guy, the fellow
4 had taken four shots at me, tried to hit me, and I
5 hadn't done anything, but they started to hoot and hiss
6 ~~at~~ me.

7 INTERVIEWER: They were disappointed at
8 losing.

9 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, that's it. Well,
10 *Murray* Morry was the next hitter and, he forced me at second
11 by a mile, and in those days we had left our gloves
12 out in the field, you know, they don't do it anymore,
13 and I was out a mile at second base and during the
14 moment of the play the crowd quieted you know, and
15 the minute I was out the hooting and hissing and booing
16 started again.

17 As I crossed second base going for my
18 glove, toward the crowd that was on my playing field
19 out there I thumbed my nose at the whole bunch of them
20 and that was the signal for all the pop bottles and
21 trash of any kind that anybody had to throw at me, see,
22 but I was still too far away and nobody hit me.

23 Well, Doyle came in and all the bunch
24 came in and we huddled around there, and there was all
25 this broken glass on the field and we were standing there

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2 and a guy jumps out of his box by the home bench onto
3 the field, he had a long tailed coat on and he had
4 spats on and a derby hat and he walked out to Bob
5 Emsley, who was the umpire at first base, and he says
6 I want that man out off the field.

7 None of the players knew who he was you
8 know, and so Emsley said, well you have to see Bill
9 ^KClem, he's in charge of the field, so he walked on to-
10 ward home plate and Clem walked out to meet him and
11 ^KClem chases him off the field.

12 Well, the man was Mayor Curley, and it
13 was just before election time, so he was making a grand
14 stand play for votes, well -- we went down to the ninth
15 inning and I jumped up off the bench to run ^{out} off to my
16 position and I got to third base and I heard McGraw
17 hollering his head off at me, and he said, Hey, Sno,
18 Sno, where you going?

19 I looked around in amazement because my
20 job is out in centerfield. He says, get back here, so
21 I went back there, and he said ^{you're not} ~~you ain't~~ going out there
22 with that crowd at your back, somebody'd kill you, ^{sure} He
23 looked up and down the bench and he said, Hey Bob,
24 (Bob Bench) you know, a big left hander, fast as
25 lightening, led the ^{national} league in stolen bases until Wills

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2 beat him last year.

3 He said, Bob, you go out there and play
4 centerfield, and he said, Sno, you and you and you,
5 get in a cab and go back to the hotel, ^{+ get dressed there.}

6 INTERVIEWER: You went in your uniforms
7 in the cab.

8 FRED SNODGRASS: Yah, because we were
9 playing in a borrowed park that one day see. So I
10 got in the cab and we went on to the hotel safely, and
11 the fellows told me afterwards when the third out was
12 made, that Bob ~~Bencher~~, he beat the third baseman to
13 the bench.

14 (Laughter)

15 That was Mayor Curley. I always thought
16 afterwards, when he got into trouble and was in the pen
17 up there I should have written him a note. I had a
18 lot of stormy things happen, stories really, in the
19 World Series that I spiked "~~Major~~" ^{Baker} you know.

20 INTERVIEWER: Was that when you hit the
21 two home runs? *When he got the name of H.K. Baker?*

22 FRED SNODGRASS: That was ~~in~~ the series
23 yes, ~~but~~ I spiked him twice. You know, we had been
24 told by friends that ~~Major~~ ^{Baker} was spike shy, that he'd
25 get out of your way at third base if the occasion arose,

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and -- well, to go back to the first game of that World Series, ~~the~~ years before when Matty had pitched three shut outs against Philadelphia, the Athletics, and McGinty the other one, you know, they won four straight, the team had been dressed in black broadcloth uniforms.

So superstitious McGraw, and he was superstitious, he ordered new black broadcloth uniforms for this Athletic Series. So we were all dressed in black and we went out ^{on} to the field first and we sat on the bench waiting for the Athletics to come by us to get to the ~~home~~ ^{visiting} bench, and all of ~~these~~ ^{us} fellows on the bench had a file and a shoe off and we were sharpening our spikes, figuring that might have some effect on them because we wanted all of them to get out of our way, ~~so~~ ^{were a baserunning club & we} we were going through the idea of sharpening our spikes, and we really ^{were gonna} ~~gave~~ them the devil you know.

Well, I happened to be the first man on second base that had occasion to try to get into third and Coombs I think was pitching and throwing his beautiful curve in the dirt, and the catcher was having trouble and they had a little pass ^{ed} ball and I lit out for third base. Baker had been told that we had been told that he was spike shy, and he just had guts enough



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2 to try to block me off that base, so he was down on his
3 knees in front of the bag with the ball waiting for
4 me to slide. Well, I couldn't hook it in or out because
5 he'd ride me right off, and so all I could do was to go
6 hard into him and try to upset him which I did and I
7 was safe, and in doing so I cut his pants, from his knee
8 clear to his hip.

9 Well they went out and got another pair
10 of pants ^{& a blanket} and they put another pair of pants on him at
11 third base and the game proceeded, but this same play
12 happened again three innings later, same pass ^{ed} ball, I'm
13 on second base, and this time I'm out, and I ripped his
14 pants again, maybe a little abrasion on his leg, not
15 a cut, no blood, no nothing like that, but I was the
16 dirtiest guy in baseball.

17 Hal Chase ^{who had a ghost writer} wrote great stories about what
18 what a dirty player I was and oh, nobody published a
19 picture of it, because they said I jumped in waist high
20 you see, which wasn't a fact at all. They wanted to make
21 it -- and then what happened, we had five days of rain,
22 that was the World Series that didn't get over until
23 the last of October.

24 INTERVIEWER: 1911.

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Five days of rain and the

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2 newspaper men had nothing to write about except the
3 dirty Snodgrass spiking ^{HR Baker} and they built that thing
4 up and up and up until Baker -- the bone showed from
5 the knee to the thigh, see.

6 Actually that was in the press, the paper,
7 and every day that the game was actually called off
8 in Philadelphia, we fellows had our wives in New York
9 and we'd jump on the train and go back to New York,
10 leave the Majestic Hotel where we were staying, we
11 had permission to do it, and some cub reporter comes
12 in there, looking for a story, and some of the fellows
13 that didn't go home or didn't go to New York, some
14 wag got a hold of this reporter and said, well, didn't
15 you hear, some fanatic came in here and shot Snodgrass
16 and they got him in the hospital and he's about to die.

17 Well, you know, they didn't have radio,
18 and that thing got on the wire and came out here and
19 my father ~~and~~ (my mother ^{was} ~~were~~ in New York, ^{waiting us} and my father ~~out~~ ^{he}
20 thought I was dead, that I had been killed by this
21 fanatic and it was a half an hour before the press, the
22 wire contradicted that, but this -- whoever it was filled
23 this cub reporter up full of crap on this.

24 INTERVIEWER: Speaking of reporters, some-
25 times I get the impression and I just don't know how



1
2 true it is, how many ballplayers are made by the press,
3 you know, how many ball players are considered great
4 or bad by the fans because of the press more than be-
5 cause of what they actually do?

6 There's an awful lot of ballplayers that
7 play every day, day in and day out and do a fine job,
8 if you ask most fans they never really heard the ^{ir} name?

9 FRED SNODGRASS: I think you've got a point
10 there. We have to now compare the old days with the
11 new days, because it was entirely different. When we
12 travelled in those earlier games, in earlier years,
13 we had perhaps four newspaper men, Sid Mercer, ^{Bozeman} Bergam
14 ~~and~~ Bulger, Sam Crane and -- what was the other one
15 that had the Cancer deal, you know, well, anyway -- ^{Damon King}
16 they would travel with us, but they didn't bother, they
17 wrote the game as they saw it, they didn't sit down
18 with us and ask questions.

19 They didn't come into the clubhouse after
20 a game, won or lost and see how you took it. They just
21 simply went to the ball game and they wrote the game
22 up on its merits. What do they do today? Why, ^{they go} there in
23 the clubhouse ~~they are~~, before the game, and after the
24 game, and they write all these stories, and they inter-
25 view you constantly now.

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2 INTERVIEWER: It must be important now,
3 today, whether a player gets along with the reporters.

4 FRED SNODGRASS: I think it's most impor-
5 tant, most important. Now look at Vince Scully with
6 the Dodgers and other clubs the same way, after each
7 game they interview some individual who has had a
8 pretty good ^{day or} night and bring out all these different
9 points, and today you go into a press box and take your
10 seat there as a newspaper man and in front of you are
11 loads of statistics of every player that's going to be
12 in that game today, what he has done all through his
13 life in baseball, it's all there printed in front of
14 him.

15 It's given to every writer. I was amazed
16 to sit up in Candlestick Park in the press box and see
17 the statistics that are given to everybody that's in
18 that tremendous big press box. You don't have to look
19 it up, it's all done for you and every day it's
20 different, all compiled you see.

21 Well, these men they didn't have those
22 things in our day, they didn't have it. We didn't have
23 the radio, who were you talking to, all you did was
24 write for a newspaper.

25 INTERVIEWER: Did you have much contact with

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1
2 the writers.

3 FRED SNODGRASS: Only on trains.

4 INTERVIEWER: So it really didn't matter
5 much whether you were buddy buddy with a writer or not,
6 or whether you didn't get along --

7 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, I think to some extent.
8 Now I mentioned Sam Crane a while ago for instance. He
9 was a guy that always tore everybody down. I don't
10 know that you could have been buddy buddy with Sam
11 Crane, I don't think you could get that close to him.
12 His type of paper was the knocking type of paper, they
13 were always finding fault.

14 Now, I do know that in certain towns we
15 always felt, in Cincinatti, for instance, that the
16 Cincinatti Inquirer ran the ball club. He told the
17 manager when to play a ^{bunting} "Batting" game or the mistakes
18 he made the day before, and put him on the spot, but
19 John McGraw, I don't believe he ever read a newspaper,
20 the sporting page I mean.

21 Nobody was going to dictate to that man
22 how to run his ball club. We never had a meeting on
23 the Giants the eight years I was there before a ball
24 game. The only meeting that we ever had as a meeting
25 was to divide up the World Serie's money.

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2 INTERVIEWER: Is that right?

3 FRED SNODGRASS: Never a meeting. Today
4 you always have a meeting, every day, you sit down and
5 you discuss what you're going to do or who you're
6 playing, where they hit, how they hit and how you're
7 going to pitch to them and all that sort of thing.

8 We never had a meeting and I'm telling
9 you the truth, not one meeting in the eight years I
10 was there did we have a meeting. Now, when I went to
11 the Braves, ^{Stallings} ~~Scully~~ had meetings. He had a meeting be-
12 fore the game and during the practice, ~~he used to go~~
13 in the clubhouse sit there and talk for a while, and
14 then go back on the field again.

15 INTERVIEWER: Not the kind of manager
16 that McGraw was, was he, or similar?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: Similar, in that he was
18 just as -- I don't like to use the expression foul
19 mouthed, but he was. He never dressed in a uniform
20 but he'd wear his pants out sliding up and down the
21 bench you know, he was, oh gee, he was - umm, that type,
22 like McGraw, yes. Very much like McGraw.

23 But -- it was fun to play for him to.
24 It was fun to play for McGraw. I remember one time,
25 you asked about signs a while ago, I was on first base

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2 one time and McGraw openly gave me the sign to run with
3 the next ball. And he gave ^{Murray} ~~Merry~~ the hit and run sign,
4 behind me, and we didn't play hit and run too often,
5 very, very seldom did we play hit and run.

6 The players among themselves could make
7 it up and try it, but that wasn't the kind of a game
8 that we played, but anyway they had a good left handed
9 pitcher in there that day, he had a swell move to first
10 base, and I was supposed to run on the next pitch and
11 I got a lousy start because I wanted to be sure the
12 ball was going to the plate and not going to first base.

13 They didn't call the balks in those days
14 that they call today. A fellow could pick you off first
15 base pretty easy, if you were leaning the wrong way.

16 ^{it a} ~~Merry~~ hits ^{a little} ~~the low~~ looping ball over shortstop and the
17 shortstop runs out in left field and keeps turning
18 around and here I am turning second base and he finally
19 catches the ball and doubles me at first base. There
20 ^{were} ~~was~~ only two outs and I got to go back to the bench.

21 I go back there and McGraw says why weren't
22 you running. I said I was running. He says I told you
23 to run. I said well the guy had a good move I had to
24 be sure it was going out the right way. The third out
25 was made the next one and I started out for centerfield

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2 as fast as I could. He said that'll cost you fifty
3 dollars. I said I was running. That's fifty more, and
4 by the time I got to centerfield I owed him five hundred
5 dollars. I would turn around and say something and he
6 would add fifty bucks, ^{and} ~~so~~ I think it was about ten days
7 to payday, we got paid twice a month, and I worried about
8 that five hundred dollars. I needed that to pay on the
9 ranch.

10 He never took it.

11 INTERVIEWER: (Laughter) He didn't.

12 FRED SNODGRASS: No, but he was insisting
13 that I wasn't running and ^{that} I should have been. I should
14 obey orders, ~~and~~ ^e he gave them so seldom, to do a thing
15 you know, because usually you're on your own, but that
16 was the type of guy he was.

17 INTERVIEWER: You mention five hundred,
18 what was the salary like in those days? The big league.

19 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, I don't know and I
20 wouldn't like to have you publish this in book form or
21 any other way, but I don't believe that Christy Mathewson
22 ever got over ten thousand dollars. The most I ever
23 got I think was seventy-five hundred dollars.

24 But you must remember this was all take
25 home pay, and a dollar was a dollar in those days.



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2 That ~~was the~~ ^{made a} difference. We ~~had~~ ^{have} a couple ^{of} players getting
3 eighty to a hundred thousand dollars today maybe, but
4 how much is take home? They're in a very high bracket
5 you know.

6 INTERVIEWER: Yes.

7 FRED SNODGRASS: Very high bracket.

8 INTERVIEWER: Did you wear numbers on the
9 back of your uniforms?

10 FRED SNODGRASS: No numbers, no names.

11 INTERVIEWER: I forget who told me that
12 first.

13 FRED SNODGRASS: No announcer.

14 INTERVIEWER: That's why you hear the old
15 cry you had to buy a scorecard to know the players.

16 FRED SNODGRASS: That's right, no announcers,
17 no broadcasting system. No radio, none of that.

18 INTERVIEWER: Did you enjoy playing?

19 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, very much, I'd do
20 it all over again, I would, I certainly would, and I
21 had a stormy career, you know, in baseball, I had to
22 live with it for years -- oh, yes you're the guy that
23 dropped the fly ball aren't you?

24 INTERVIEWER: Oh, really?

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, for years and



1
2 years, when I'd be introduced to somebody.

3 INTERVIEWER: No kidding?

4 FRED SNODGRASS: And they'd start to say
5 something and stop you know, afraid of hurting my feel-
6 ings.

7 INTERVIEWER: How did you feel about it
8 after a while?

9 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, I didn't lose any
10 World Series, I never took ^{blame} credit for losing any World
11 Series.

12 INTERVIEWER: Well, they did that to
13 Merkel you know, and about Ralph Branca's pitch to
14 Bobby "^{Thompson}" in the World Series, and you can multiply
15 it by any number of things.

16 FRED SNODGRASS: I was terribly ^{incensed} upset a
17 few years ago when the Gillette people were putting out
18 this little book of facts that was edited by Hy Turkin,
19 a baseball writer, and he compiled an encyclopedia of
20 players and it was well done and authentic and right,
21 but he edited this little book of facts that they gave
22 away with the sale of a razor, so some friend of mine
23 said to me, have you see the book and I said no, and
24 he said, well you better get one, he said, they've got
25 a section in there of heroes and goats and he said,

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2 you're the goat in it, in this thing, so I got a hold
3 of one and read it and Hy Turkin said, that Fred Snodgrass
4 a centerfielder for the Giants, dropped an easy fly
5 ball and let the tying and winning runs score.

6 INTERVIEWER: Really? *That's an error of fact.*

7 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, sure, but this error
8 happened in the 10th inning, the first man up in the
9 10th inning and I did drop that fly ball, I took it
10 away from ^{u a} ~~Morry~~, ^{u a} ~~Morry~~ called for it first, great big
11 high fly, half way between ^{u a} ~~Morry~~ and I, and he called
12 for it first and the way we worked I had preference
13 over ^{left +} ~~the~~ right field so there'd never be a collision,
14 so I said, no, I'll take it, ^{well,} and I dropped the darn
15 thing. It was so high that this fellow was sitting on
16 second base before I picked it up see.

17 INTERVIEWER: Well, then after that --

18 FRED SNODGRASS: ^{Hooper} ~~Baker~~ was the next hitter,
19 and the 10th inning in the 8th game of a world series,
20 we were just certain he would move that guy over to
21 3rd base ^{+ play for a} ~~because of the~~ tie you see, so my position
22 out in centerfield was fairly close in behind second.
23 Matty was guarding the guy back to the bag so that we
24 could get him ^{at third} on the bunt, and I was in pretty close,
25 figuring if the ball got by in any way I'd keep him

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2 from going ^{to third. But he} further. ~~He~~ hit one over my head and I
3 made one of the greatest plays of ^{that} ~~the~~ whole World
4 Series, caught that ball, and almost doubled him at
5 second. The guy was turning third, you know, he thought
6 it was gone, and ^{they} ~~I~~ had to make a decision on the play ^{at second}
7 it was so close.

8 ^{well,} That's one out. Then Matty walked Yerkes
9 with the winning run, unfortunately, and up comes
10 Speaker with one out, and what does he do -- you could
11 have heard ^{the noise} ~~it~~ clear down to the Boston common, Speaker
12 took a swing at that ball and hit a nice ^{easy} little foul
13 fly, and the ballpark was so quiet you could have
14 heard a pin drop and that ball was never touched.

15 Merkel didn't have to go thirty feet to
16 get that easy foul ball, it was almost in the coaches
17 box, but Matty, I can see Matty yet, and this is unfair,
18 I hope you don't publish this, but I can see Matty
19 yet, ^{yelling} ~~come~~ on Chief, come on Chief, come on Chief and
20 the Chief never could get there.

21 It was too far from home plate, but Merkel
22 had been a little unsteady and Matty was afraid of him
23 and -- I don't know why -- Matty could have put it in
24 his hind pocket himself if he wanted to, ^{well} ~~but~~ then
25 Speaker, of course, hit a clean line drive over the

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2 first baseman's head that scored the man that I put on,
3 put the man who walked on third and another long fly
4 to right field, the games over and I lose the World
5 Series.

6 Of course, I helped, there's no question
7 about it, I started the rally, but --

8 INTERVIEWER: How does it feel to hear
9 people all those years after that keep referring to
10 that? It must be pretty annoying.

11 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, it was ~~pretty~~
12 annoying, there's no question about that, it was annoying
13 but --

14 INTERVIEWER: This is where the press
15 comes in too, really, you know.

16 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, you know why, there's
17 a story behind that too. The first day we went to
18 Boston, Joe Wood was to pitch against us, he was a
19 fast ball pitcher, with a hop on the fast ball, so
20 we put in a pitcher comparable to that style and we
21 had twenty minutes of batting practice, which a ball
22 player loves.

23 In five minutes every baseball that
24 the Giants had in their bag was in a newspaper man's
25 pocket up in the press box, they had ^athe slanting

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2 screen and we were tipping this ball and it was hitting
3 that screen and it was rolling into the press box and
4 not one of them came back and in five minutes we had
5 no batting practice. You think the Boston Club would
6 give us any balls, oh no, that was just fine, we weren't
7 going to get any batting practice in a World Series
8 game.

9 So little Fred Snodgrass, hotheaded guy
10 that he was, he walks out in front of that press box,
11 now, he yells up at all those guys up there and he *just*
12 bawls them out proper, really proper. From that minute
13 on nothing was ever said good about me in that World
14 Series. Anything that they could find fault with me,
15 they did.

16 In fielding practice they gave us some
17 balls then and whoever was hitting to me in centerfield
18 was just hitting them out of my reach, left or right,
19 and they'd roll out and hit a little three foot fence
20 that they had built out there in front of some temporary
21 bleachers, and the ball would bounce back.

22 And eight or ten fellows would jump over
23 that fence to go and get the ball and beat me to it.
24 Well, one of them came back faster than they could get
25 and I got it first and just in devilment, not trying to

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2 hit anybody, but I threw it apparently at somebody to
3 hit the fence and scare them off the field, keep them
4 off the field. Oh, boy, did they write that up, that
5 dirty Snodgrass, trying to kill a spectator you know,
6 but that was the story behind the goat, you see, be-
7 cause they were after me all through that series.

* * * *

8 Here is a nice story. This was in the
9 sporting news as of this date, and this was beautifully
10 done during the war when this writer came to California
11 to interview two people, Ty Cobb and me and I think that's
12 the nicest story that's ever been written about me.

13 INTERVIEWER: Sporting News ^{April 9,} in 1942.

14 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes.

15 INTERVIEWER: How old were you when you
16 joined the Giants?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: Twenty.

18 INTERVIEWER: Twenty years old.

19 FRED SNODGRASS: And one of the things I'm
20 quite proud of, we had the first automobile that was
21 ever given away to the leading batter of the two big
22 leagues, I was in a three way battle for many, many
23 months and all the papers carried this box every day.

24 INTERVIEWER: Cobb, Snodgrass and ^{Lajoie} "~~Lazaray~~".

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Yah. And that was when

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1 we --

2 INTERVIEWER: Then an automobile was really
3 an automobile, wasn't it?
4

5 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, and this was one
6 week, I hit ^{five} twenty-two that week, but I didn't win it.
7 I got to worry ^{ing} about ^{it} -- I think if I had hit ^{my weight} the last
8 ^{month} week I might have come close to tying Cobb, because ^{but}
9 he won it. He should have, he ^{was} great.

10 It's nice to reminisce every once in a
11 while, look back. When you get to be my age you kind of
12 forget that you ever played baseball unless you look
13 at something ^{like this} every once in a while and it brings things
14 back to your memory, things that happened. Baseball's
15 a great game.

16 INTERVIEWER: Do you follow it at all now?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: I listen to the games on
18 the radio, I go down, very seldom, I've only been down,
19 oh, I don't know, two or three times a year.

20 INTERVIEWER: Are you a Dodger fan now?

21 FRED SNODGRASS: No, I am a Giant fan.
22 I ~~look at~~ ^{cross the luck of} the Dodgers, ~~but~~ I'm still for the ^{Giants.} -- I
23 went to the Orient for the Giants, you know, two years
24 ago.

25 INTERVIEWER: To what?

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FRED SNODGRASS: To the Orient.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, did you?

FRED SNODGRASS: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, I didn't know that.

FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, a tour, a tour group of thirty-nine people and my own life long chum who I took to the Giants as a pitcher one time, a fellow named Thompson, he and I joined them, so we flew over in a private plane with the team and the tour people and we saw I think three or four games in Japan and we spent a month over there touring Japan.

INTERVIEWER: Now that I recollect, didn't Lefty ^{O'Doul} "~~O'Toole~~" have a lot to do with baseball out in Japan?

FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, they're great for Lefty, they crazy about him, he ^{owns} ~~opened~~ Japan, he had club after club over there you know.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, and the Giants went over two years ago?

FRED SNODGRASS: Yah, they got beat the first four ^{games} days. They finally won the series but --

INTERVIEWER: And you went with them on the whole tour.

FRED SNODGRASS: No, we left them, we were

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2 with them in the hotels and we saw ball games at different
3 places, Tokyo and different towns, but we left them
4 and toured the country and really got a boot out of it.
5 While we were over there, this is rather interesting,
6 the Embassy asked Fuller Thompson and I to go on TV
7 over there, this was a good will trip and none of the
8 Giants were doing anything to make it good will,

9 There were three cliques there that were
10 bad at that time, that was before ^D~~Stark~~ was the manager,
11 and there was the colored group, the caribbean group,
12 and the White. They didn't mix very well, and they
13 sat around in the hotel lobbies, ^{like} the Imperial Hotel
14 in Tokyo and they wouldn't talk to people.

15 I got brushed off, ~~Dave~~ was just terrifi-
16 cally brushed off, and it hurt my feelings to think
17 that nobody was interested in an old guy that used to
18 play the ^{old} game and it hurt. None of them would talk to
19 me, but anyway we went on TV and the TV program was
20 I've got a Secret.

21 INTERVIEWER: In Japanese?

22 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, of course, they
23 have, you ought to see Perry Mason over there. He speaks
24 the most beautiful Japanese you ever saw. Well, any-
25 way this was I've Got a Secret, we went over there early

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2 to the studio and we were briefed and the other people
3 that were going to be on the show were briefed and
4 ~~we all were doing Japanese~~, and then they gave us
5 something to eat and we went on at 8:00 o'clock, in this
6 great big studio, just filled with people, and Fuller
7 was sitting here and I was sitting here, and the panel
8 was opposite us and we each had an interpreter, and
9 our secret, I didn't think they could come up with,
10 our secret was that fifty-five years before that Fuller
11 Thompson had pitched and I had caught for Los Angeles
12 High School when there was only one high school in Los
13 Angeles against the first Japanese team that had ever
14 come to America.

15 They beat us, one to nothing, or five to
16 four, something like that, they beat us by one run,
17 and that was the only game they won. All the colleges
18 beat them, but they beat this high school team, and
19 that panel came up with it.

20 INTERVIEWER: How did they do that?

21 FRED SNOGRASS: Well, on the panel, first
22 they tied ^{us} ~~it~~ to our ^{visit} ~~business~~ and then being with the
23 Giants, so they knew baseball was involved, and on the
24 panel was this sixty-five year graduate of ^{Waseda} "Waseda"
25 University and his wheels got to going around and looking



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2 at our age and one thing and another, he came up with
3 the fact that ^{Waseda} ~~Wasadena~~ University had sent a team to
4 America, and they gave us a very beautiful cigarette
5 case, gold for appearing on this program, that was our
6 pay.

7 INTERVIEWER: Boy, that must have been
8 a great trip.

9 FRED SNODGRASS: Boy oh boy, that was
10 great fun.

11 INTERVIEWER: I'm perplexed as to why
12 a big player wouldn't want to talk as much as he could
13 to somebody that played back in 1910.

14 FRED SNODGRASS: I would think so too.
15 I don't know, I was frankly disappointed and unhappy
16 about it. I tried to talk to Willie Mays, for instance.
17 The publicity he gets, they say he's a friendly guy
18 and everything, but in the plane going to Japan, we
19 met in the aisle once and I stopped and talked to him
20 and I said well, I used to play where you play now
21 and tried to open up a conversation, and I said, why,
22 Willie, you as the great base runner that you are, why
23 don't you ever use the delayed steal, just to start
24 a conversation.

25 That's a lost art too, you never see that

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2 done anymore. You know what it is, the ball hits the
3 catchers mitt and then you go. *nobody covers.*

* * * * *

4 But I never got to talk to them. But he *[Stengel]*
5 said, I was just talking about you, I was talking about
6 the art of getting hit with a baseball, it's a lost
7 art, he said, I was just talking about you. Oh, you know,
8 a ball would hit the bat and you'd fall down on your
9 belly and while you were down there you'd try to make
10 a red spot by squeezing your hand or something you know,
11 we took all those advantages you know. Nowadays, no.

12 INTERVIEWER: The umpires must have gotten
13 pretty wise to these things too.

14 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, sure, but if you had
15 a good red spot there ~~held~~ ^{*you'd*} say it hit you rather than
16 the bat. I can't understand yet, really, how Wills
17 could steal as many bases as he did last year.

18 Certainly they don't have the strong
19 throwing catchers that they used to have like Archer
20 and ~~Kling~~ ^{*Street and*} and fellows of that calibre, ^{*and*} or the pitchers
21 are not holding them on ^{*but*} for a man to steal a hundred and
22 some odd bases like he did, it's just unbelievable.

23 The most I ever had was fifty-one, and I
24 was pretty proud of that but that was along ways from
25 ~~this~~. *leading the league.*

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2 INTERVIEWER: And you were stealing many
3 year after year. This guy one year.

* * * * *

4 FRED SNODGRASS: ~~It's a very funny thing.~~
5 I'll tell you ^{this} ~~the~~ story about a character in baseball
6 which was written up in the Reader's Digest and later
7 televised when the Digest was putting on those television
8 p lays and I happened to see it twice on television and,
9 of course, they changed the story a little bit in the
10 end to make it a little bit more adapted to television
11 but --

12 ~~The story,~~ the true story is what I'm
13 going to tell you now. The Giants were playing in St.
14 Louis in the old National League Park there and in those
15 days we didn't have a dugout. We had a bench about ^{under an awning}
16 half way between the grandstand and the foul line.

17 INTERVIEWER: When was that?

18 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, this was back in
19 1911. We were having batting practice ^{the Giants were} and out of the
20 grandstand walked an individual, tall, lanky, in a
21 dark suit with a black derby hat on and he walked across
22 the grass from the Grandstand to the bench and he said
23 I'd like to talk to Mr. McGraw, and some of ^{us} ~~the~~ guys
24 there pointed to Mr. McGraw and he walked over to Mr.
25 McGraw and he said, Mr. McGraw, my name is Charles

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2 Victory Faust, and he says, I live over here in Kansas
3 and a few weeks ago I went to a fortune teller who
4 told me that if I would join the New York Giants and
5 pitch for them that they would win the pennant.

6 Well, Mr. McGraw looked at him and being
7 superstitious as most ballplayers were, and are, he
8 said, well, he said, that's interesting, he said, take
9 off your coat, here's a glove and a ball and I'll get
10 a catcher's mitt and I'll warm you up and see what you
11 have.

12 So they got up in front of the bench
13 and they tossed a few balls back and forth and Charles *Victory*
14 Faust said well I better give you my signals, so they
15 got their heads together and he gave him five or six
16 signals and McGraw would give one signal and Charles ^{ie}~~s~~
17 would wind up and his wind up was like a windmill, both
18 arms went around in circles for quite a little while
19 before he let go of the ball.

20 Well, every different sign that McGraw
21 gave the ball came up just the same, there was no
22 difference in them whatever, and there was no speed,
23 probably enough to break a pane of glass but that was
24 about all, and so McGraw finally threw the glove away
25 and he caught him barehanded because he said, well, to

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2 himself, this guy's a nut and I'm going to have a little
3 fun with him.

4 So he said, all right --

5 INTERVIEWER: This is a true story?

6 FRED SNODGRASS: This is a true story, and
7 he said, how about your hitting, can you hit? Oh, he
8 said, pretty well. Well we're having batting practice,
9 get a bat and go up there, and I want to see you run
10 *so run*
~~so let~~ it out. Word was passed around to the fellows
11 that were shagging around the infield, he dribbled one
12 down to short, ~~Pete~~ ^{he} juggled it a minute and Charlie
13 was turning first and they slid him into second and
14 they slid him into third, and they slid him into home
15 in his best Sunday clothes.

16 Well, that night we left for Chicago
17 and when we got down to the train and got into our
18 car who was in the Pullman car, our private car, except
19 Charlie's Victory Faust. Everybody looked around in
20 amazement and McGraw said, well, we're taking Charlie
21 along to help us win the pennant.

22 So believe it or not, every day from that
23 day on Charlie's Victory Faust was in uniform and he
24 warmed up sincerely to pitch that game. He thought he
25 was going out to pitch that particular game, and every



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day this happened.

To make a long story shorter, this was 1911 and Charlie Faust, as I said, warmed up every day to pitch, he never pitched a game, he wasn't signed to a contract, but John J. McGraw gave him all the money that was necessary for him to keep himself neat, he went to the barbershop almost every day for a massage and a haircut, he had plenty of money to tip the waiters, in the small amounts that we tipped in those days, and we did win the pennant.

Spring came around the next year and Charles Victory Faust was in the training camp.

INTERVIEWER: Did this young man know he was not a Giant?

FRED SNODGRASS: He must have realized it but he was supposed to be a simpleton, but he was very sincere. He really believed that he was a pitcher. He warmed up every day in 1912 and again we won the pennant in 1912. In 1913 he was again in the spring training camp, he warmed up every day to pitch, and during that season he became such a drawing card with the fans who would clamor for McGraw to put him in to pitch, so finally one day, against Cincinatti in New York, they clamored so hard and so loudly for him to, for

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2 McGraw to put him in to pitch that McGraw did put him
3 in to pitch, and he pitched one full inning, without
4 being under contract with the American League and he
5 didn't have enough to hit, they didn't score.

6 One of those nothing ball pitchers, you
7 know. Well, Charlie Faust's turn at bat came when three
8 outs were made and the Cincinatti team stayed in the
9 field for the fourth out to let Charlie come to bat
10 and the same thing happened then that happened the first
11 time that Charlie ever came up on the field in St.
12 Louis in his Sunday clothes, they slid him into first,
13 second, third and home.

14 He was such a drawing card at this stage,
15 Larry, that a theatrical firm gave him a contract on
16 Broadway in one of those six-a-day shows you know,
17 start^{ing} in the afternoon and go^{ing} on through the evening,
18 and he got four hundred dollars a week for it.

19 He dressed in ^athe uniform, he imitated
20 Ty Cobb, ~~and~~ Christy Mathewson, ⁺Honus Wagner in a very
21 silly way, of course, but seriously as far as Charlie
22 was concerned and the fans loved it and they went to
23 see Charlie on the stage. He was gone four days and
24 we lost four ball games. The fifth day Charlie showed
25 up at the Polo Grounds in the dressing room, and we all



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2 said to Charlie, Charlie what are you doing here, what
3 about your thestrical contract? Oh, he said, fellows
4 I've got to pitch today, you fellows need me, so he
5 got out and warmed up with his windmill warm up that
6 he had, ^{that} ~~this~~ tickled the fans, and we won.

7 And we won the pennant again. That fall
8 I joined the group of big leaguers and we made a barn-
9 storming trip, starting in Chicago and going through
10 the northwest and down the coast and over to Honolulu
11 and in Seattle who came down to the hotel to see me
12 but Charlie Faust and Charlie said to me, he said, Sno,
13 I'm not very well, but I think if you would prevail
14 upon Mr. McGraw to get me to Hot Springs a month before
15 spring training, I could get into shape and help you
16 win another pennant, but unfortunately that never came
17 to pass because Charlie Faust died that winter and we
18 did not win the pennant the next year.

* * * * *

19 VOICE: I'll have to admit Larry that they
20 were pretty rough in 1908.

21 WOMAN'S VOICE: There were some pretty
22 rough ones, but you go back and there was some very,
23 very nice people, Arthur Fletcher.

24 VOICE: Well, he was a youngster with me,
25 but you take the group --

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2 WOMAN'S VOICE: Oh, ^{you mean} ~~these~~ [^] were the people
3 before you?

4 VOICE: Yes, like McGinty ⁿⁱ and Hanahan
5 and Spike Shannon, Mike Donlin and they were all old
6 tough Irishmen when I joined the club in 1908. In
7 1908 we had four or five, five I think, youngsters
8 that also came in, Crandall, and Fletcher, and Herzog,
9 and one or two others, and myself who were a little
10 bit different than the groups ^{was} that ~~were~~ just ahead
11 of us.

12 Now, I think that was about when the
13 change started to take place, Larry, just about 1908.

14 VOICE: Now, that explains something
15 about the tough old characters, but it doesn't explain
16 about intelligence.

17 VOICE: Oh, no, no, those fellows were *good*
18 thinkers; even though they were rough and tough. They
19 stayed in baseball and were there because they could
20 think. We didn't train like they train today, gee whiz,
21 they have teachers and coaches and schools and black-
22 boards and all that sort of thing and maybe it's helpful
23 and it must be. They have mechanical pitchers and they
24 have all sorts of things, moving pictures to look at
25 to see what you're doing, and we didn't have any of those

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2 things in those days, and yet the records will prove
3 that there are fewer 300 hitters today than there
4 were in those days, pitchers in those days went the
5 full route instead of only half the game, very few
6 reliefs were made -- I don't know, I just can't put
7 my finger on it but I still think, as my wife says,
8 that they were good thinkers, they weren't mechanical
9 players, they had to think.

10 Take Ty Cobb, look at Ty Cobb and the
11 tremendous record that that man had, and he had to
12 think, it wasn't just the fear of his spikes that got
13 him his reputation and certainly ^{an} ~~Morry~~ Wills in breaking
14 his record, spikes had nothing to do with it, it was
15 ability in this case, and knowing how to get the jump.

16 Speaking of my own career, I ~~will~~ always
17 pride ^{it} myself on one thing, and that was a study of where
18 the batter was going to hit against the kind of pitching
19 we had and where to play that particular batter. You
20 don't go out and plant yourself in one position and
21 stay there. If you're a thinker you try to figure out
22 where that ball is most apt to come to and be out there
23 in that position, ^{not}
24 ~~you~~ ^{for} have to go ~~from~~ a long distance to
25 get some balls, but ^{to} ~~you~~ anticipate and when I talk to

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2 kids as I have many times, I don't do it any more, I
3 quit, but I stress that first of all you've got to
4 think, and in thinking you've got to anticipate. Those
5 two words think and anticipate, were always a part
6 of my talk to kids.

7 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever hear about
8 *Phil*
9 Bill Douglas?

10 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes.

11 INTERVIEWER: And you hear about Grover
12 Cleveland ~~and~~ Alexander --

13 FRED SNODGRASS: There was another character
14 Bugs Raymond. ~~You hear about them all the time.~~

15 WOMAN'S VOICE: That's right, and you'd
16 sort of --

17 FRED SNODGRASS: But there were only one
18 or two of those to a club, the whole club was not a
19 drinking club. Most clubs had a couple of characters
20 that drank too much and didn't behave themselves as they
21 should, like Bugs Raymond and Grover Cleveland, *J* Alexander,
22 the great pitcher that he was, and I don't think he
23 was too much of a drinker up until towards the end of
24 his career at that.

25 When I looked *at* my teammates on the
Giants, other than Bugs Raymond, I can't name a single

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one that I ever saw under the influence of liquor.

Of course, it was against the rules, but I don't know, I didn't think anybody ever abused it. When McGraw bought Bugs Raymond he knew that he was a character, a drinker, and he joined the Giants and he was a wonderful pitcher, you know, one of the greatest spitball pitchers that ever lived.

He didn't behave himself and then McGraw brought his wife and child or children, I think he had two and brought them on to travel with us and be with him as a constant companion all the time and that worked pretty good for a short while and then that flew all to pieces, and the next thing he did -- well, first before he brought his wife on he started fining him but fining Bugs didn't mean anything, he didn't need any money, he'd go into any bar and pull a baseball out of his pocket that he ^{'d stolen} used that day and autograph it and he'd get all the liquor he wanted.

So about that time when the fines didn't work McGraw put some Pinkertons on him, Pinkerton detectives, and one day he called us all into the office and he said I'd like to read you this report on Bugs Raymond, Bugs hadn't yet come into the clubhouse, and he read this report, that this Pinkerton man had

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2 given him, and Bugs ^{had} stopped first at 41st and Broadway,
3 and he'd had a couple of beers ^{and} some free lunch sand-
4 wiches, and then his next stop was oh, maybe ten blocks
5 ^{up} ~~down~~ the line, but anyway by the time he'd gotten to
6 the Polo Grounds he'd stopped at about twenty different
7 bars and partook of beer only plus the free lunch at
8 these places and so many sandwiches and so many olives
9 and so forth, and about the time McGraw finished reading
10 this report to us in walked Bugs, and he confronted
11 Bugs with this report.

12 Bugs listened to it, and he said, they're
13 Goddam ~~lies,~~ ^{lies,} I never ate an olive *in my life.*

14 (Laughter)

15 He didn't say he didn't have any beer,
16 he'd had enough to fill a barrel by that time.

17 INTERVIEWER: How could a man stay in
18 shape to pitch with all that beer?

19 FRED SNODGRASS: I don't know but anyway
20 the next thing McGraw did, he brought his wife and
21 children on and that didn't work and then he hired
22 a big ex-policeman, who was about six foot two and
23 weighed about two hundred and fifty pounds, I've for-
24 gotten ^{his} ~~the~~ name, and he ^{was} ~~used~~ to be Bugs Raymond's con-
25 stant companion. He slept with him, ate with him, never

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2 left him out of his sight, and he allowed him six
3 bottles of beer a day, that was his ration.

4 INTERVIEWER: That's quite a bit.

5 FRED SNODGRASS: Yeh, and that just worked
6 fine for a while, Bugs was pitching great ball and
7 winning for us and we went into Cincinatti and we were
8 sitting there in the hotel the last night, waiting to
9 leave for some other town, I forget which one, and
10 McGraw looked around the lobby and he saw everybody
11 but Bugs Raymond, but here was the keeper, this big
12 detective, this big ex-cop.

13 He called him over and he said, where's
14 Bugs? Oh, he said he's down in the alley there in
15 this saloon not far from the hotel and he said, go
16 down and tell him I want to see him. Well this big
17 detective walked out of the hotel and he was gone about
18 ten minutes, and he came back, both eyes puffed up,
19 and we found out later, the story, that he parted the
20 swinging doors and walked into this bar and there was
21 Bugs with a bunch of admirers, drinking and he was
22 pretty well shot and he must have been talking about
23 me, the detective said, because when I opened the doors
24 and walked in, he said, here he is now, let's get him,
25 and he said, they all piled on me and he said, this is

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2 the result. Well, that night on the train Bugs and
3 McGraw had it out and we went to St. Louis, I remember
4 now, and we were all dressed on the field and McGraw
5 was still in the clubhouse and everybody was there
6 except Bugs Raymond, he hadn't shown up yet.

7 Finally, in those days you had to come
8 through the grandstand and walk clear across the
9 playing field ~~because~~^{to} this clubhouse ^{which} was out in
10 centerfield to dress, and we saw Bugs come across there
11 and the trainer, Eddie Mackel told us later what happen-
12 ed, he said McGraw met Bugs at the door and he said,
13 Bugs, he said, you're through in baseball, and he said
14 here's your uniform (that was the year we had to buy
15 our own uniforms,) he said, here's your uniform, you
16 see Mr. Foster, he'll give you a ticket to New York,
17 you're through ^{with the} ~~as a~~ Giant^s.

18 When we got back to New York in the nearest
19 saloon to the Polo Grounds, hanging up in the window
20 was Bugs Raymond's uniform with a sign on it that said,
21 Bug's Raymond Tending Bar Here. He never pitched another
22 game professionally in the big leagues. He was black-
23 balled, an outcast, and you probably know the history,
24 he joined some semi-pro team finally in Chicago and
25 died of DTs, but that was the end of Bugs Raymond's

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2 pitching career.

3 That actually happened, just the way
4 I told it. But, he was the only drunkard on that club.

5 INTERVIEWER: What was he like as a person?

6 FRED SNODGRASS: He was a nut, he did
7 the craziest things. The finest hotel that we stopped
8 at in our travels, and this was in the spring, was the
9 Belvedere in Baltimore, that was the finest hotel in
10 those days, in the east I would say.

11 They just about tripled our eating allowance
12 there because it was so expensive and the three days
13 we were in Baltimore Bugs was never seen by anybody,
14 except the morning that we were to leave for New York.
15 We were all down in the lobby waiting for taxicabs,
16 reading the newspapers and stalling around because
17 we weren't really leaving for an hour or two.

18 We saw a waiter and a bus boy with two
19 loaded trays going into the elevator and somebody had
20 the bright idea that that must be Bugs Raymond's break-
21 fast because he hadn't eaten in the dining room for
22 the three days, and sure enough he had taken the menu
23 and he ^{had} figured out by item exactly the amount that
24 he ^{could spend} ~~was charged~~ for that breakfast and he spent the whole
25 allowance for that breakfast, and of course, he couldn't

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2 eat any part of it, but that was one of the silly things
3 he did.

4 Another thing that he would do, he would
5 buy these lizards, you know that change colors,
6 chameleons and he'd put a little thread on it and he'd
7 go into the dining rooms around the circuit, sitting
8 among the guests of the hotel you know, with this lizard
9 running around on his shoulder. The silliest things
10 you know, but he was fun, he had a good sense of humor.

11 I remember once in spring training camp,
12 we were down to a fish fry on the final day before
13 leaving camp, the townspeople always gave us a fish
14 fry down at the "Brases" River, and we were all down
15 there eating and somebody brought down a couple of
16 target guns and we were shooting ^{at} ~~the~~ target^s and Bugs
17 said here, hit this, and he took his watch out, a
18 very good watch that somebody had given him in the minor
19 leagues for his record there.

20 He just threw it up in the air and I re-
21 member Al ^{Bridwell} ~~"Redrow"~~ was shooting at that time and he put
22 a bullet right through the middle of this.

23 INTERVIEWER: Oh, boy.

24 FRED SNOGRASS: Those are some of the
25 silly things that he would do. He never, you never could

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2 be sure he'd show up.

3 INTERVIEWER: Will you tell me something,
4 and we only skirted the issue, the whole matter last
5 time, will you tell me the background and the events
6 that occurred in the Merkel incident?

7 FRED SNOGRASS: Yah. Well, let's see
8 now, you have to go back, not at the end of the season,
9 you've got to back up a little ^{bit} beyond that to where
10 McGraw had brought ^{Rube Marquard} "Marklot" and ^{Bull} "Durham" and
11 brought them to the Giants as pitchers. They sat on
12 the bench for, oh, two or three weeks, maybe not that
13 long, and finally in a double header against Cincinatti
14 in New York, McGraw started with ^{Marquard} Marklot and Durham
15 and we lost the double header.

16 We went from that series, we had, this
17 was pretty close to the end of the season, we lost that
18 double header and we went to Philadelphia and we had
19 to play seven games in four days and of those seven
20 games we had to win five of them if Chicago kept going
21 and winning all their games, we had to win five out
22 of seven from Philadelphia, and then we had to beat
23 Boston four straight, to end up a tie with Chicago
24 if they won all of their games and this happened.

25 But to go back to the Merkel incident,

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1
2 which was previous to where I started to tell this,
3 Merkel was the substitute first baseman, Fred Tenney
4 was the first baseman. Merkel was just a youngster
5 sitting on the bench.

6 He had come into the club the fall before
7 I joined in the spring and in that following spring
8 there were five of us youngsters that made the team
9 and Merkel and Doyle too, were considered youngsters,
10 but we fellows on the bench at the Polo grounds, when
11 the game ^{was} ~~is~~ over ^{at} ~~in~~ the Polo Grounds because of the
12 closeness of the boxes and the aisles and the fact that
13 everybody left the grandstand, not everybody, but most
14 people, and walked across the infield and the outfield
15 to the exit gates in right field, right center, we
16 fellows that were sitting on the bench made a practice
17 of sprinting from the bench to ^{our} ~~the~~ clubhouse which was
18 in right center to avoid the fans that came on the
19 field and got in your way and slapped you and pulled
20 on your clothes and so forth and so on.

21 So, in this particular game that I am
22 speaking about, Merkel was on first base as a runner.
23 McCormick was on third base as a runner. Al ^{Bridwell} ~~Biglow~~
24 was the hitter. Bob ^{Emslie} ~~Benchley~~ was the umpire in the
25 field and Hank O'Day was the umpire behind the plate.

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1

2

Bridwell
~~Biglow~~ hit -- the score is tie^d, and

3

this is the last inning, the last half of the last inning,

4

the score is tie^d, and we needed that run on third

5

to win. *Bridwell*
~~Biglow~~ hit this line single over the second

6

baseman's head, Mc^Cormick, of course, scored easily

7

from third, he could walk in.

8

The fact that the game was won and over,

9

Merkel realizing that and having done the same thing *for*

10

day in and day out, leaving the bench whether the

11

game was run or lost and racing for the clubhouse, --

12

INTERVIEWER: Since he was mainly a bench-

13

warmer?

14

FRED SNODGRASS: Sure, he was a bench

15

warmer, he was not the regular first baseman, he was

16

a substitute, same as I was a substitute catcher. So,

17

the minute he saw that ball safe, out in right center,

18

rolling toward the fence, he had started for second

19

base, but knowing that the game was over he lit out for

20

the club house as he had been doing all season long.

21

Of course, the rules of the game were

22

that to complete the play he had to touch second base

23

because he was forced by *Bridwell*
~~Biglow~~ making this single,

24

and so the minute that ball went to field, he lit out

25

for the clubhouse. The crowd began to come on the field

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1
2 just as they did every day. Hank O'Day ^{who was} behind the plate
3 and Bob Emsley the umpire who was standing near second
4 base beat it ^{through} ~~to~~ the pitcher's box, that is Emsley did,
5 Hank O'Day turned and walked toward the press stand
6 which was on the ground behind the plate, because their
7 dressing room was behind ~~me~~, where the writer's sat
8 there behind the backstop.

9 So they didn't see what happened. Both
10 of them were going directly opposite from where
11 the ball went. Well, of course, the great infield
12 of Steinfeldt, Tinker, Evers and Chance were the
13 Chicago infield, and Johnny Evers, an old timer at the
14 game, knew that Merkel had to touch second base and
15 when he lit out for the clubhouse why ^{Evers} ~~he~~ began to call
16 to the centerfielder Schulty to go and get the ball,
17 and Schulty hadn't even chased the ball because the
18 game was over as far as he was concerned, but Evers
19 made so much noise about getting the ball and throwing
20 it into second base that ^{Schulty} ~~he~~ finally got the ball and
21 threw it towards second base and it was intercepted,
22 by Joe McGinty, who was another old timer and ^{sensed} ~~knew~~
23 that Merkel had to go to second base, so he intercepted
24 the ball and threw it up into the left field bleachers.
25 He threw it out of the park.

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1
2 He wanted to get rid of the ball, so it
3 couldn't get to second base. Then we had a confab as
4 to whether Merkel should be sent for in the clubhouse
5 and come out to second base and touch it, and that
6 was ruled out and by this time, of course, there were
7 a thousand, two thousand people milling around on the
8 infield, just chaos around there.

9 Well, Frank Chance went into the umpires
10 dressing room and insisted that Hank O'Day and Emsley
11 come out and see what was going on, which they did,
12 and they saw this chaos there, these thousands of fans
13 and people not knowing what was happening and everything
14 else and they didn't do anything about it.

15 INTERVIEWER: Did anybody touch second
16 base?

17 FRED SNODGRASS: No.

18 INTERVIEWER: I mean did anybody get a
19 baseball and touch second base?

20 FRED SNODGRASS: No, no, it just ended
21 in pandemonium. It went to the President's office, of
22 the league, and three days later they came up with
23 a decision that the game would have to be played over
24 if necessary, it was considered no game.

25 INTERVIEWER: How could they call Merkel

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out when nobody touched second base with that baseball that was up in the stands?

FRED SNODGRASS: Well, that was one of the reasons it took three days to decide what they were going to do about it, because testimony was given that McGinty intercepted the ball and testimony was given that Merkel went to the clubhouse and testimony was given that Evers was calling for the ball and wanting^{ed} to get it there and couldn't.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, Evers, he was the one that saw the whole thing at the beginning?

FRED SNODGRASS: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Now, I've heard that Evers got a baseball from somewhere and said this was the baseball--

FRED SNODGRASS: If he did I never knew it. I don't know that that happened, but I know it took, I'm sure it was three days for the National Commission^{or whoever were}, the judges, to determine what to do about this particular play.

But the reason I went back before this^{as} and I explained the play was, why should Merkel have been blamed for losing that pennant? We lost a double header to Cincinatti and C~~o~~leski pitched Tuesday,

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1
2 Thursday and Saturday in Philadelphia and beat us three
3 games. He pitched Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and
4 beat us three games out of the seven, when we had to
5 win five.

6 Then we beat Boston ⁴ straight without losing
7 a game and that ended us up in a tie, but all through
8 Fred Merkel's life he was blamed as a bonehead and
9 ~~credited with~~ ^{blamed for} losing the pennant. Why go back over five
10 games and pick out one play and blame that guy for
11 losing the pennant.

12 INTERVIEWER: That was before Cobeleski
13 pitched the three times?

14 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes, before we lost
15 to Cincinatti. So we lost five games after the Merkel
16 incident, so I never blamed Merkel, in my judgment
17 he didn't lose the pennant. He pulled a bonehead, it's
18 true, just like what's his name in that football game
19 in running the wrong way, but it was boneheaded there's
20 no question about that, he was just an inexperienced
21 young fellow who had been doing one thing all through
22 the year and did it again at the wrong time.

23 He should have known that he should have
24 gone to second to complete the play.

25 INTERVIEWER: And after that the Giants

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1
2 lost five games.

3 FRED SNODGRASS: They lost five games,
4 a double header to Cincinatti, and don't forget
5 Cobeleski, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

6 INTERVIEWER: That wasn't Stanley
7 Cobeleski, that was the other one.

8 FRED SNODGRASS: This was the left hander,
9 and do you know that we ran him out of the league in
10 the next year. It was the simplest, craziest, most
11 foolish thing that ever happened. We were told, McGraw
12 was told by a friend of his who was the manager of
13 Cobeleski in the minor leagues before he came up,
14 to Philadelphia, that he always carried in his back
15 pocket a piece of balogna and he chew^{ed} on that balogna
16 through the game, and that he^{was} -- he did it more or
17 less secretly, somewhat^{ly}, maybe ashamed of doing it but
18 it was something he did all the time.

19 He was a Pole right^{up} from the coal mines
20 that became a ball player and this was an obsession
21 with him, so this manager told McGraw and McGraw made
22 it a point ~~to~~ that some of we players would meet
23 Cobeleski as, well, as he was going to and from the
24 pitcher's box whenever he pitched against us and we'd
25 stop him and say, hey give us a chew of that balogna

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1
 2 will you, and then the coach around third base would
 3 imitate the manager of Detroit, who was a great friend
 4 of this manager that Cobeleski had in the minor league
 5 and who imitated this, what was his name -- Ty Cobb's
 6 manager, ^{Jennings} you know he'd go down and pick grass and
 7 say, "Rah de da de da de da" and pick the grass and
 8 this manager of Cobeleski's in this minor league, ^{Elmira}
 9 ~~Al Meyer~~ or whatever it was, he did the same thing ~~as~~ as
 10 Jennings, he copied Jennings style and he was the
 11 manager of Cobeleski, so the two things together, the
 12 "Rah de da de da de da" and pulling the grass and the
 13 demanding of a ^e ~~chaw~~ of the ^{is} ~~balogna~~ would so upset this
 14 fellow that he couldn't pitch against us to save his
 15 life.

16 He never beat us again, the word got
 17 around to the other clubs and they did the same thing
 18 and it chased him clear out of the league. * * * * *
 19 though was Bill ~~Klem~~, boy he really ran a game.

20 INTERVIEWER: Was he a good umpire?

21 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes, excellent.

22 INTERVIEWER: Did he ever throw you out
 23 of the game?

24 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, many times.

25 INTERVIEWER: And you still think ^K ~~Ø~~ Klem



1
2 was a very good umpire?

3 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes.

4 INTERVIEWER: Despite the fact that he
5 continuously threw you out.

6 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, he didn't throw me
7 out anymore I don't think than he did anybody else.
8 We weren't friends. I had some umpires that I thought
9 were friendly, not that they give you a break or
10 anything, but they were gentlemanly and would talk to
11 you if they met you on the street, but ^KClem and I never
12 saw eye to eye, never got along very well, but he was
13 an excellent umpire.

14 I was the type of a player that always
15 fought for what I thought was right and sometimes it
16 led to hot words and too many of them and I was out.
17 If you wanted to get thrown out and ^KClem was umpiring
18 behind the plate, all you had to do was call him "cat-
19 fish" and you were out of the game.

20 (Laughter)

21 That's all, just that one word and you
22 were out. He wouldn't stand for that at all.

23 INTERVIEWER: Why is that, what did that
24 one word mean to him?

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Well, ^KClem if you looked

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1
 2 at his pictures he had a peculiar ~~lips~~ lips or mouth
 3 and when he would call a strike or a ball or you're
 4 out or anything, ^{he sort of} ~~he'd start~~ to "Efferves^{ed}" a little
 5 bit, vapor might show or something, and these lips
 6 somebody said looked like a catfish' lips or something
 7 so everybody around the league, not to his face, they'd
 8 call him catfish, but if you did call it to his face
 9 and he knew who did it --

10 INTERVIEWER: They tell me they called
 11 McGraw Muggsey but not to his face.

12 FRED SNODGRASS: ^{That's right} If you ever called him
 13 Muggsey you surely weren't his friend anymore. ^{And} None
 14 of we players ever called him anything but Mr. McGraw.
 15 We never called him John or Mac, always Mr. McGraw.

16 ^{F.S.} ~~INTERVIEWER:~~ ^{* * * * *} Did they ever have any ^{These}
 17 complicated signs you know -- a player goes up there
 18 and he doesn't dare do anything unless he looks around
 19 and gets the nod to do this or do that.

20 ~~FRED SNODGRASS:~~ ^{Today yes,} a player gets
 21 up there and he's told what to do. ^{He isn't allowed to use his own judgment.} On the Giants we
 22 didn't have any signs.

23 INTERVIEWER: That's interesting.

24 WOMAN'S VOICE: The pitchers --

25 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, catcher to pitcher,

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1
2 certainly, but if McGraw wanted somebody to' steal, he
3 might stand up and spell it out with the dummy,
4 s-t-e-a-l, everybody in the park could see it. The
5 opposition knew what he was doing.

6 INTERVIEWER: Could you all read that --

7 FRED SNODGRASS: Practically.

8 INTERVIEWER: Everybody could read that
9 sign language, because you had Dummy Taylor?

10 FRED SNODGRASS: Yes. He took it as an
11 affront if you didn't learn.

12 INTERVIEWER: Dummy Taylor did?

13 FRED SNODGRASS: Oh, yes. He wanted to
14 be one of you, wanted to be in on the conversations.

15 At the theatre he wanted to know what the joke was *at the*
16 and somebody's got to tell him. *vanderbilt*
show

17 INTERVIEWER: That's very interesting.

18 FRED SNODGRASS: Sure, so everybody learned.

19 We practiced all the time, you'd get ~~there~~ in the
20 elevator ^{ad.} going ^{to} ~~from~~ 155th Street, ^{from where} many of the fellows

21 lived there in the hotel, and we'd gather there and

22 all the way up we'd be ^{spelling} ~~studying~~ the ^{advertising} signs, Not talking

23 to one another but sitting there ^{spelling} ~~practicing~~ the ^{you know,}

24 signs. I do it yet.

25 (End of tape)

